

Optimize Your Activities

Handbook for International Organizations in Paris Region



International organizations represent a highly heterogeneous category. The reality they cover only partially overlaps with the categories of international and common law. This guide is aimed more specifically at two categories: Intergovernmental Organizations (IGOs) under public law - including intergovernmental organizations and European Union authorities - and Non-Governmental Organizations with an international scope (INGOs) under private law, including foundations and associations.



Editorial



Alexandra Dublanche

Chairwoman of Choose Paris Region

International organizations play a vital role in Paris Region's attractiveness and influence. Their economic impact, reputation, soft power, and the activities generated by their presence, reinforce the cosmopolitan image of their host cities. Every year, they inject nearly €5 Bn into the regional economy and employ nearly 11,500 people. In addition, events such as congresses and trade fairs which are organized by these international organizations support sectors such as the hotel and catering industries.

Paris Region welcomes and supports those organizations. The present guide is designed to answer the most frequently-asked questions of these organizations, and to be a practical day-to-day tool for already established companies and those wishing to set up in Paris Region.



Lionel Grotto

CEO of Choose Paris Region

In 2022, Choose Paris Region and Paris-Île de France Capitale Économique founded the International Organizations Club to provide a forum for international organizations to share experiences and best practices, and to work together on common issues. As part of this Club, a project was launched to quantify and analyze the economic impact and soft power of the international organizations that are operating in Paris Region. Some of the conclusions of this study will be found in this guide.

To strengthen Paris Region's position as an international capital and destination for these international organizations, several actions have been taken to simplify the processes regarding their establishment and growth, and all the concrete problems that these organizations face on a daily basis.



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A Hub for International Organizations



Overview of the Current Situation

Historical Legacy

Paris Region offers a unique environment where the historical heritage blends seamlessly with modernity. The international organizations located here enjoy a setting that inspires creativity and innovation, reinforcing their identity at the heart of France's cultural wealth.

Paris Region has a long tradition of welcoming international organizations, which goes back to the mid-19th century. Their creation was essentially motivated by the scientific and technical developments of the time. Benefiting from its prominent position in international relations, as well as in scientific and technical fields, France witnesses many of these organizations choosing to establish their headquarters in Paris Region.

International Organizations, as they are known today, developed mainly in the first half of the 20th century. Numerous congresses, conventions, and conferences are held in the French capital, thereby reinforcing the image of Paris as a global city.

In total, around twenty international organizations - such as UNESCO, OECD - established their headquarters in Paris Region before 1975 and remain based there to this day.



Over the past four decades, a new generation of international organizations has emerged, especially in cutting-edge scientific and technological fields. Among these new organizations, the establishment of the European Space Agency's headquarters in Paris in 1975 is particularly noteworthy.

The last twenty years have also seen the emergence of new European institutions and agencies, such as the European Securities and Markets Authority, which moved to Paris in 2011, and more recently the European Banking Authority in 2019.

The International Organizations in Paris Region Today

The presence of international organizations in France is not confined to Paris Region. Strasbourg, Lyon, and Marseille are also popular locations for international organizations. The vast majority, however, are based in Paris Region.



+60

international organizations, in the broad sense of the term, are based in Paris Region



23

intergovernmental organizations



43

international non-governmental organizations (INGOs) registered with the Council of Europe of INGOs



5

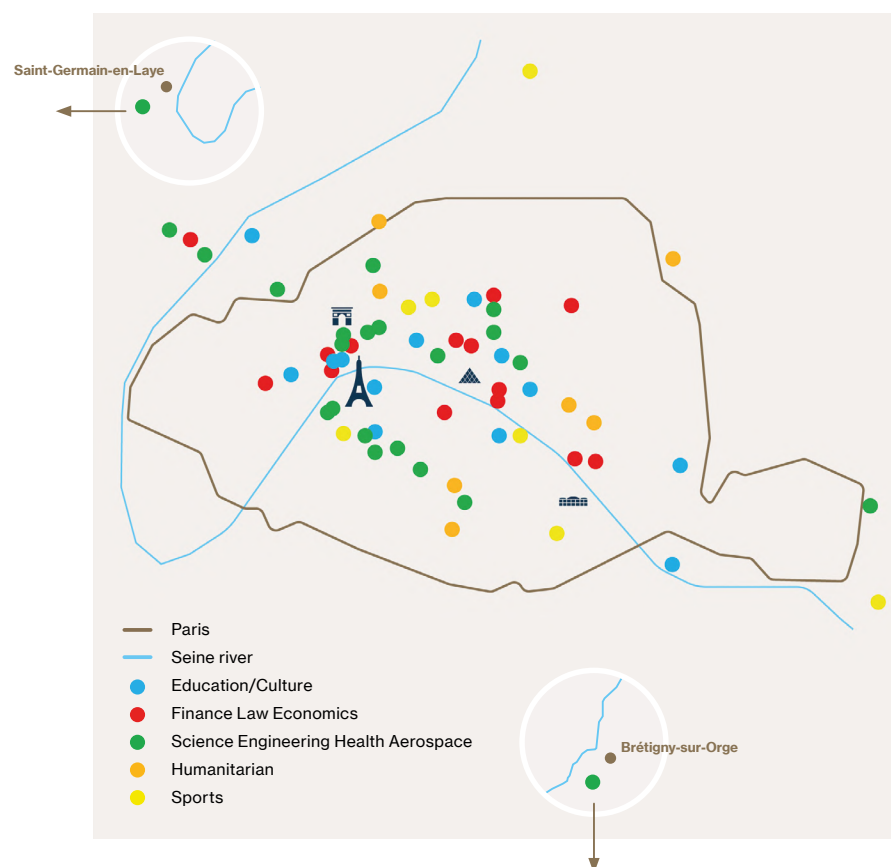
represent more than 5,000 jobs



A multitude of small structures with **less than 20 employees**

While all sectors are represented among the international organizations, it is worth noting that culture, engineering in fields of excellence, science, finance, law, and humanitarian aid are particularly present. The fact that most of the development of international organizations took place in the last half of the 19th century until 1975 is illustrated by their location around the axis of the Seine and the heart of Paris, as shown on the map below.

Although International Organizations cover a wider range of sectors, as reflected in the Region's rich diversity, a phenomenon of polarity has emerged in recent years, with ecosystems springing up and strengthening around them.



Paris Region's Strengths

A Rich and Diverse Region

With a GDP of over 700 billion euros, the Region is remarkable for its dynamism, quality of life, and historical heritage. It is as appealing for its business as it is for its charm.

With a wide variety of cultural and sporting activities easily accessible by public transport, it attracts millions of tourists every year. As a prime destination for study, work, and business, it is one of the most attractive regions in the world.

Its robust and innovative infrastructure, and skilled talent pool, makes Paris Region a true hub of investment and innovation, with a wide range of real estate for both individuals and businesses, as well as an exceptional events and hotel offering.



Accessibility

An Interconnected Region

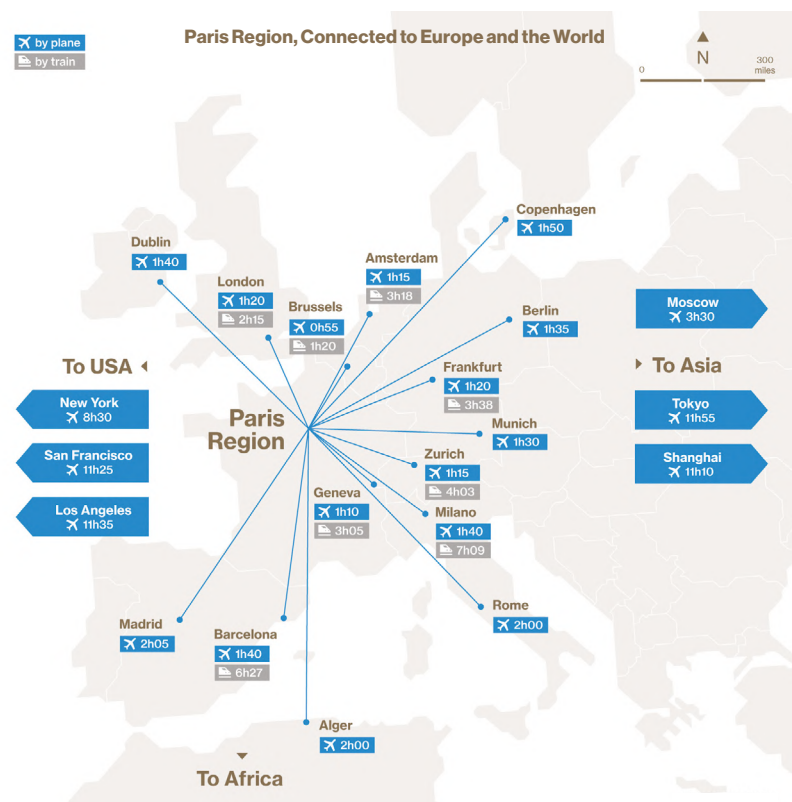
Paris Region boasts seamless connectivity, facilitated by its extensive transportation network. The Metro, RER, buses, and tramways ensure effortless daily commuting, offering efficient connections and supplemented by services like Velib' for bicycle rentals.

This network is and will be completed by the Grand Paris Express, the largest transportation project in Europe, which will provide Paris Region with a new automatic metro system. It will make suburb-to-suburb travel easier and reduce commuting times. The project comprises four new lines for the Paris Métro, plus extensions of the existing Lines. A total of 200 kilometres (120 mi) of new tracks and 68 new stations are to be added, serving a projected 2 million passengers a day.

A Gateway to Europe and the World

The high-speed rail network provides fast connections to major European cities such as London, Brussels, Amsterdam and Geneva.

Thanks to its three international airports, Paris Region is less than a two-hour flight from all European capitals, with connections to over 300 destinations worldwide.



“

With its three major international airports and high-speed rail network, Paris Region's great accessibility gives us the opportunity to reach nearly 100 million passengers a year

says Véronique Georges – **Administrator at the European and Mediterranean Plant Protection Organization**

Source carte: Choose Paris Region

Jobs Market

With a population of more than 12 million, Paris Region offers a diverse employment base and is a major business hub where talented people are particularly valued. International companies and organizations can thus benefit from a skilled, multicultural workforce.

The Ideal Place to Expand Your Network

Whether they move to Paris Region to study, set up a business, or follow their spouse on a business trip, international talents quickly feel at home. They have no trouble finding fellow compatriots among the many international communities that are active in the Region and integrating and learning French. For more information: chooseparisregion.org/why-paris-region/a-cosmopolitan-region

Check out our international mobility partners



1.8M

international residents
live in the Region

14,5%

of the population*



16,560

foreign sites

573,000

jobs*



135,500

international students

120

international schools with
216 international sections*



**1 out of
6 jobs**

in Paris Region is in
a foreign company
(16,2%)*

Source : *«Paris Region Facts and Figures 2024», co-produced by Choose Paris Region, the Paris Île-de-France Regional Chamber of Commerce and Industry and l'Institut Paris Region.



EPPO

European and Mediterranean Plant Protection Organization

eppe.int

For Plant Protection in the European and Mediterranean Region

The European and Mediterranean Plant Protection Organization (OEPP, EPPO) is an intergovernmental organization in charge of the cooperation and harmonization of plant protection in the European and Mediterranean region. Within the framework of the International Plant Protection Convention (IPPC), the EPPO is the Regional Plant Protection Organization (RPPO) for the Euro-Mediterranean region. Founded in 1951, it covers nearly all Western and Eastern Europe and the Mediterranean region.



© EPPO

What Are Your Missions in Paris Region?

According to the FAO (Food and Agriculture Organization), up to 40% of harvests are lost every year to plant pests and diseases. Our mission is first and foremost to protect plant health for agriculture, forestry and the uncultivated environment. The EPPO is also responsible for developing an international strategy against the introduction and spread of harmful organisms, including invasive alien plants, which are harmful to plants in agricultural and natural ecosystems. The aim of our work is to contribute to the protection of biodiversity, encourage the harmonization of phytosanitary regulations and all other areas of plant protection where official action is required; promote the use of modern, safe and effective pest control methods; and provide a plant protection documentation and information service.

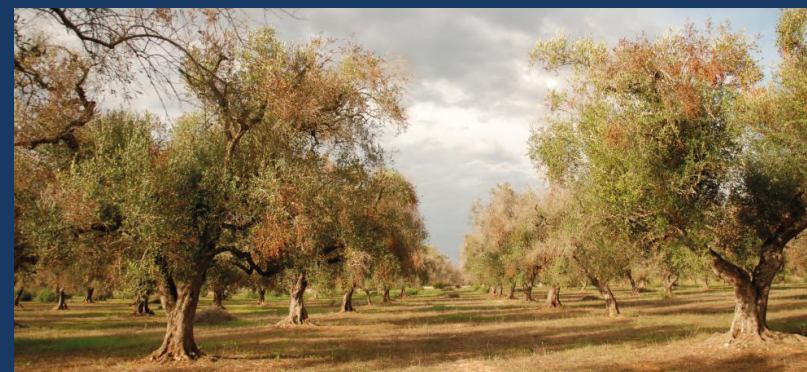
Prevention Through Awareness

We set international standards on many subjects (e.g. inspections, diagnostics and risk assessments) which are adopted by our member countries. One of our main activities is to raise public awareness of pests that could pose a risk to the Region, via a literature watch. One of our major achievements in this field was the "Don't Risk It!" communication campaign, in which we raised awareness among international travelers of the risks involved in carrying plants in their luggage, by producing posters and other communication media used by plant protection services at points of entry, such as international airports and seaports.

Paris Region: A Gateway to Europe and the World

With its three major international airports and high-speed rail network, Paris Region's great accessibility gives us the opportunity to reach nearly 100 million passengers a year. This is a tremendous advantage for our awareness campaigns. At the same time, French inspection services can benefit from EPPO standards and communication campaigns.

Having our headquarters in Paris makes it easier to organize our technical meetings with experts from our 52 member countries, as well as our General Assembly (the EPPO Council) with delegates from all our member countries. With our headquarters so easily accessible, more than half of our meetings and conferences are held in Paris or Paris Region, making it easier to accommodate our experts. Indeed, the Region's inspection services regularly welcome colleagues from other EPPO member countries to share knowledge, discuss the common needs of inspectors and consider how these can be reflected in EPPO standards.



© EPPO

Real Estate Offer

With 56 million m² of total office space, Paris Region offers the widest range of real estate solutions in Europe, making it an exceptionally attractive destination for many business sectors, research projects, and lifestyles. With its numerous coworking spaces and the world's largest startup campus, Paris Region is home to a real estate ecosystem that fosters collaboration and business synergies.



Office Rents in Paris Region¹

Prime rent in central Paris
€960/m²/year

Prime rent in La Défense
€550/m²/year

Average rent in Paris Region
€432/m²/year



Paris Region is more affordable than Greater London and less expensive than many European regions

Cost and Quality of Life



Cost of living survey 2023

Paris, ranked #35, is more affordable than these global cities²:

- #1 Hong-Kong
- #2 Singapore
- #3 Zurich
- #4 Geneva
- #5 Basel
- #6 New York City
- #7 Bern
- #8 Tel Aviv
- #9 Copenhagen
- #10 Nassau
- #17 London



Cost of living, ECA International³

- New York, Hong Kong, Geneva, London, Singapore, Zurich, San Francisco, Tel Aviv, Seoul, and Tokyo are the most expensive cities in the world
- **Paris is less expensive** than the above cities, and than Bern, Copenhagen, Moscow, Oslo, Luxembourg, Dublin, Amsterdam, Stavanger and Vienna in Europe

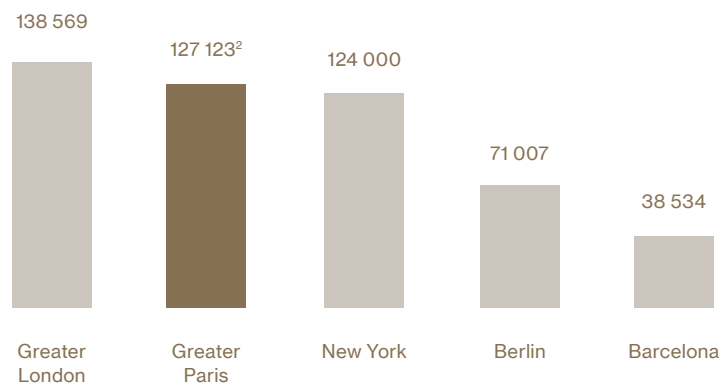
Hospitality and Events

The Region offers around 2,700 hotels and 172,000 available rooms with a wide range of accommodation solutions, from luxury hotels to more economical accommodations and international hotel chains, guaranteeing hospitality to all business and leisure travelers.

The Largest Offer in Europe of Incomparable Quality¹



Around **2,700 hotels**,
172,000 hotel rooms
12 Palace hotels in Paris



54

hotels and **4,646** additional rooms planned between now and 2024 in Greater Paris²

Sources: 1 - Eurostat, 2023, 2 - Paris Je t'aime, 3 - MKG_Destination - INSEE - Paris Je t'aime

When it comes to events, Paris Region is second to none. It hosts a variety of professional and cultural events, from trade shows and international conventions to world-renowned artistic events. With 700,000 m² of exhibition space of event space, it offers the largest and most diversified range of facilities for business events in Europe.

A Real Know-how in Hosting Major Trade Shows¹

700,000 m²

The #1 offer of exhibition space in the world

€3.9 Bn

in economic benefits

21

exhibition and conference venues

715

Congresses

379

trade shows

6.6 million visitors, including **402,230** international visitors
91,966 exhibiting companies, including **27,015** foreign companies at trade shows

Destination Performance Index²

by number of international meetings organized in 2023

In 2023, Paris is back on the top step of the podium as a leading destination for hosting international congresses, as it was before the health crisis. Over the past 10 years, Paris has consistently ranked among the top three in the ICCA rankings, and in 1st place 7 times.

The ICCA have identified 156 face-to-face congresses in Paris in 2023, placing the city in 1st position in the international ranking by city, ahead of Singapore, Lisbon and Vienna.

The majority of congresses organized in the Region concerns

Medical Sciences (271),
Sciences (100),
Technology (75),
Economy (58),
Social Sciences (44),
Mathematics (22)
and Environment (21)...

Sources: Paris Region Facts and Figures 2024, 1 - CCI Paris Île-de-France, data 2022, 2 - ICCA 2023, data 2022, 3 - OTCP, Data 2022



The Grand'Place !

Looking for a venue for your next business event in Paris Region or simply an accommodation? Welcome to the Grand'Place !

With nearly 400 event venues listed, and 175 accommodations, this portal is a valuable resource for event organizers, whether they are planning business meetings, conferences, festivals or simply looking for accommodations for their staff or guests.

Check out the Grand'Place Platform



Healthcare System

Whether it's for routine consultations, specialized treatments, or complex surgical procedures, Paris Region provides access to world-class medical expertise and a first-class healthcare offering.

A large number of medical practitioners and specialists speak many languages, and the Region's healthcare facilities offer services that are tailored to the specific needs of international patients, such as translation services, administrative assistance, and healthcare coordination between different medical specialties. The American Hospital in Paris is a great example of this.

A Rich and High-Quality Care Offer

Paris Region is home to Europe's largest hospital system, AP-HP (Assistance Publique-Hôpitaux de Paris), with an extensive network of public hospitals, private clinics, and healthcare providers. The French healthcare system ensures universal coverage for residents, including foreigners, funded through taxes and contributions from salaries. Bilingual doctors and accessible hospitals enhance healthcare accessibility.



Healthcare Professionals in Paris Region¹



73,000 practioners*
22,500 general practitioners*
50,200 specialists*
10,000 dental surgeons
124,000 state-certified nurses**
13,400 pharmacists

Sources: Paris Region Facts and Figures 2024, 1 - Research, studies, evaluation and statistics Direction 2023, data 2022* and 2021**

Quality of Life

The Region offers an exceptional quality of life with a rich and varied cultural offering. Around 200 museums, renowned theaters, festivals, and cultural events liven up daily life. This cultural diversity creates an environment that fosters personal and professional fulfillment.

An Effervescent Gastronomy Scene

Paris Region is home to an effervescent gastronomy scene with **35,715** restaurants, exceptional chefs, hotspots, international specialties, Parisian cafes, organic cafes, street food trucks, markets... there is something to suit all!



An Unrivalled Cultural Offer³

320 cinemas
354 theaters
1,009 public libraries
5 opera houses
58 foreign cultural institutes and centers (FICEP)



35,715
restaurants¹



135
Michelin-starred restaurants, incl.
9*, 15**, 111*****²

Paris Region is also home to preserved natural areas such as the Chevreuse Valley and the Fontainebleau Forest, as well as numerous recreational areas that are bound to appeal to outdoor enthusiasts and nature lovers alike.

Sources: Paris Region Facts and Figures 2024, 1 - URSAFF, 2023, data 2022, 2 - Guide Michelin 2023, 3 - Repères de l'activité touristique, Choose Paris Region (Visit) 2023, data 2022 Ministry of Culture, Open data 2023, data 2023



76%

green space and forests

1/4 of Paris Region is covered by the **4** existing Regional Nature
43 outstanding gardens
35 "Natura 2000" sites¹



Sports and Leisure Activities

19,250 sports clubs

A wide variety of nature sports facilities in Paris Region

12 leisure resorts
7,510 km of hiking trails
2,120 km of mixed roads or greenways for bicycling²

A Great Place to Live in, with Competitive Costs

Whether close to work or to children's school, surrounded by greenery, or in the heart of a lively city, the Region offers a multitude of solutions to meet every expectation, and a wide range of prices and real estate products, thanks in particular to the development of the Grand Paris Express.

The entire Region is full of interesting options in terms of quality of life and housing costs.

Specialized real estate agencies are there to guide and assist every one in his search for the ideal home.

Check out our Real Estate partners



5.9 million housing units, including
4.3 million apartments
1.5 million houses

Private Housing Rents in Paris Region³

	Paris	Inner suburbs	Outer suburbs	Paris Region
Surface in m ²	50	52	57	53
Rent in €/m ²	24.1	17.6	14.7	18.9
Average monthly rent in €	1,230	937	855	1,014

Sources: Paris Region Facts and Figures 2024, 1 - Injep-MEDES / Recensement des licences sportives et des équipements sportifs data 2022, 2 - IRDS 12/23, data 2021, BEV 2020, 3 - OLAP 2023, data 2022

The Strategic Nature of International Organizations

International organizations play a crucial role in Paris Region's attractiveness and influence, thanks to their considerable economic impact and influence. According to the study* carried out by Paris-Île de France Capitale Économique, the economic impact of international organizations in Paris Region is estimated at 1% of Paris Region GDP.

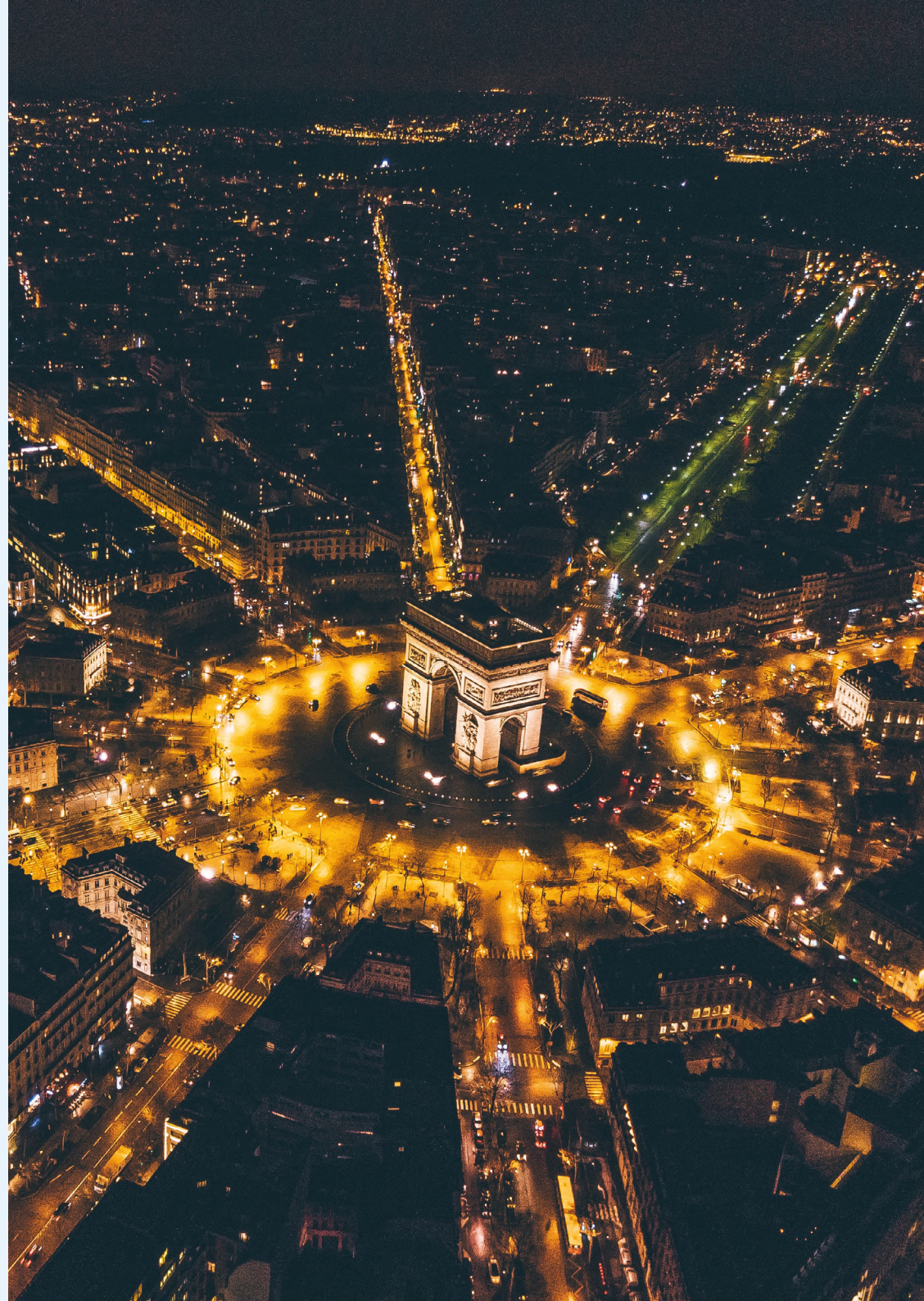
Study's title: The Economic Impact of International Organizations in Paris Region - Quantification of their Economic Impact, Analysis of their Soft Power and Focus on their Needs

***Study Methodology**

Scope : International organizations include Inter-Governmental Organizations (IGOs), including European Union authorities, as well as International Non-Governmental Organizations (INGOs) and International Associations.

Sample : 33 International organizations based in Paris Region, including 13 IGOs and 20 INGOs. Of the 33 organizations, 12 completed a survey conducted by Paris-Île de France Capitale Économique. For the other International organizations, data was obtained by extra-polation from public sources.

Data source : This survey was submitted in June 2023 to 33 International organizations in Paris Region; additional data were obtained from public sources and financial reports published by the International organizations; interviews and technical workshops with International organizations managers provided qualitative data.



Their Direct and Indirect Economic Impact

International organizations play a major economic role in the Region. Their headquarters and offices contribute directly to creating local jobs and boosting economic activity through spending on goods and services. This direct spending supports many local businesses, from professional service providers such as international mobility aid and recruitment agencies, to the events, hotel, and catering sectors.

The 66 international organizations in Paris Region have a **direct economic impact of 3.1 billion euros**, most of which are generated by the payment of salaries, social contributions and taxes of international organizations.

Their indirect economic impact is 1.5 billion euros of annual expenditure. In total, the direct and indirect impact is €4.8 Bn, which is a clear indication of how committed international organizations are to the Region.



€3.1 Bn

The added value, i.e. the direct economic weight of international organizations in Paris Region



€1.5 Bn

Total annual expenditure by international organizations in Paris Region



€0.2 Bn

Total induced economic impact by international organizations in Paris Region



€4.8 Bn

Total economic impact by international organizations in Paris Region

Their Induced Economic Impact

The induced economic impact of international organizations should not be underestimated. Their presence often attracts foreign companies and investors who are keen to collaborate with these organizations or benefit from their expertise. This creates an ecosystem that fosters innovation and economic growth, thus reinforcing the Region's position as a global center of excellence.

The induced economic impact, including third-party spending, event spending, tax revenues, and office expenses, is **over 200 million euros**.



The last congress, which took place last August in Paris, was attended by over 1,000 people, mainly from North America, Europe and East Asia

explains Didier Coulomb
Managing Director
– International Institute of Refrigeration

Events

International organizations make a significant contribution to the regional economy through their spending on events. An estimate for all Parisian organizations suggests a total of **over 52 million euros**.

The average costs of events organized by international organizations vary considerably. These events bring together a median of between 100 and 200 participants but can vary considerably in size, from small gatherings to large events with several thousand attendees.

Event spending also includes the rental of reception halls, thus spurring the local economy by adding value to the regional event industry. In addition, sponsorship is a common practice that provides essential financial support for international events, while raising the profile of organizations and promoting their missions.

In conclusion, international organizations' spending on events in Paris Region represents a significant economic impact, thanks in particular to outsourced services, venue rentals and financial support from sponsors.

Tax Revenues

The tax revenues from international organizations are complex to assess for several reasons. Tax exemptions granted by public authorities make it difficult to measure their real financial impact. Intergovernmental organizations generally benefit from total or partial exemptions. Similarly, non-profit associations, although exempt from corporate income tax under their status, may be subject to other taxes depending on their activities. As a result, non-governmental organizations contribute more to tax revenues. Tax revenues would thus amount to just under 12 million euros.

Office Space

The financial impact of international organizations in Paris Region, particularly in terms of office expenses - whether these organizations rent or own their premises - contributes significantly to the indirect economic impact of these entities in the Region.

Public authorities offer a range of customized incentives to attract these organizations, which often reduce their office-related expenses. These tax advantages need to be considered to properly assess international organizations' overall economic impact. However, their confidential nature makes it difficult to estimate international organizations' exact office expenditures.



Induced economic impact:

over €200 M



Expenditure on events

over €52 M

International organizations exert their influence through a variety of channels. Their presence attracts talent from all over the world, thus enriching the Region's pool of skills and fostering cultural exchanges. Furthermore, they help to create an environment that fosters research and development, often in collaboration with local universities and research institutes.

Jobs

The economic impact generated by international organizations in the Region is reflected in their employee consumer spending, which currently stands at **over 11,500 employees**.

These employees range from salaried staff to consultants and international civil servants, with the latter benefiting from specific privileges and immunities. Some **20,000 French people work for international organizations** around the world.

In addition, some of these organizations rely on volunteers, mainly international NGOs. Although this doesn't have a direct impact on the figures, it does underline the added value that volunteering brings to these entities.



Employee Spending

Finally, the indirect economic impact of employees spending their income in the Region, and thus boosting the local economy, is far from negligible. The economic impact induced by these employees **is estimated at nearly 1.5 billion euros for nearly 11,500 employees**, which represents a significant contribution to the local economy.



€1.5 Bn

expenditure incurred
by employees
of international
organizations in
Paris Region



11,500

persons employed
by international
organizations in
Paris Region



20,000

French nationals serve in international organizations around the world
including 5,200 for the United Nations.

International benchmark for the economic weight of international organizations

	Paris	Geneva	The Hague	New York	Vienna
Number of international organizations	66	269	223		54
Number of jobs generated	11,500	28,740	20,300	15,890	19,000
Total economic impact in billion euros	4.8	6.7*	6.3	4.3*	1.35

* international organizations expenditure on the territory ** approximate result

Their Soft Power

The presence of international organizations in the Region is not limited to their considerable economic impact. Indeed, these global players also play a major role in the capital Region's influence and attractiveness.

Their natural international outlook facilitates inter-state cooperation. Their ability to bring together representatives from different countries to discuss and resolve common problems promotes multilateral diplomacy and

strengthens international relations. In this way, these organizations act as bridges between nations and help to promote peace, cooperation, and mutual understanding.

In this vein, and by way of example, the strategic position of Reporters Without Borders (RSF) in Paris Region facilitates its worldwide activities, and its fight for the freedom, pluralism, and independence of journalism.





RSF

Reporters Without Borders

rsf.org

Defending and Promoting the Freedom of Information Worldwide

Reporters Without Borders (RSF) is an international non-governmental organization, which was founded in 1985 and is dedicated to defending and promoting the freedom of information throughout the world. Its main mission is to fight for the freedom, pluralism and independence of journalism. RSF works to ensure that everyone has access to free and reliable information, in accordance with Article 19 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.



© RSF

Paris Region, a strategic location for RSF's missions

Although RSF's missions do not specifically target Paris Region, the organization's head office is based in Paris. This strategic location facilitates its activities on a global scale, and provides it with a central position in Europe to coordinate its international efforts. The head office serves as the epicenter for the administration, strategic planning and implementation of its global initiatives. RSF is particularly active in defending the freedom of the press and the independence of the media in France. Paris Region is not only the heart of journalism in France, home to the headquarters of all the major media, but also a key location for French democratic life. This strategic position enables us to take targeted action and interact directly with key institutions and media to promote and defend these fundamental values.

The Paris Charter on Artificial Intelligence and Journalism

A recent example of RSF's action is the Paris Charter on AI and Journalism, an initiative aimed at establishing ethical principles and responsible practices for the use and deployment of artificial intelligence (AI) in journalism. Supported by 16 international organizations and drawn up by a commission of 32 experts chaired by Maria Ressa, journalist and winner of the Nobel Peace Prize in 2021, this charter seeks to protect the integrity of information in the age of AI. It underlines the need to subordinate technological innovation to journalistic ethics in the media, and establishes that human judgment must remain central to journalism. This is the first international reference in this field.

What impact will this have on Paris Region?

The Paris Charter on AI and Journalism, which was officially launched at the Paris Peace Forum on November 10, 2023, highlights the importance of Paris and its region as a place for exchanges and crucial decisions for journalism and the future of information more generally. The location of RSF's headquarters made it easy to mobilize international experts, institutions and key partners around this initiative. The region will benefit from an international aura thanks to this initiative, which will have an impact on the way the media and journalists around the world understand the issues surrounding artificial intelligence.



© RSF

Boosting Diplomatic and Interstate Relations

As the headquarters for many international organizations, Paris Region plays a key role in strengthening France's diplomatic ties. International organizations facilitate diplomatic interactions by offering privileged access to international exchanges, as well as to information, best practices, and strategies from other countries. By encouraging cooperation between nations, the presence of international organizations in Paris Region can serve as an indicator of the diplomatic proximity between France and other countries. For example, UNESCO's presence in Paris gives France an influential voice in debates and decisions concerning education, science, and culture.

As well as the proximity of Paris as a diplomatic center facilitates exchanges and partnerships with governments around the world, thereby consolidating the influence of the World Organization for Animal Health (WOAH).



A Cultural and Intercultural Gas Pedal

The cultural diversity promoted within the international organizations in Paris fosters intercultural dialogue between different nations.

Furthermore, these entities also contribute to the enrichment of French and Paris Region cultural heritage through the organization of cultural events, the ownership of historical properties, and collaboration with local institutions.

The cultural events organized by these international organizations, both in France and abroad, help to promote French and Francophone culture on an international scale, like the Francophonie Games, which celebrate the cultural and sporting diversity of member states.

The ownership of cultural assets by some international organizations, such as works of art or exhibitions, and their partnerships with local institutions, also contribute to enriching the regional cultural scene.

Although international organizations are not the direct custodians of cultural heritage conservation, their presence and activities play a significant role in enriching it within Paris Region.

“

We bring people and nations together through education,
culture and science

| — Unesco



A Closer Look



WOAH

World Organisation for Animal Health

woah.org

Promoting and Protecting Animal Health Worldwide

The World Organisation for Animal Health (WOAH) is an intergovernmental organization created in 1924. We exist to promote and protect animal health worldwide. We work to prevent animal diseases, improve animal welfare, and facilitate safe trade in live animals and their products, while contributing to food safety and public health. Indeed, 60% of animal diseases are transmissible to humans, therefore, improving animal health also means protecting human health.



© WOAH, Emmanuelle Soubeyran, Director general

Bringing Together Decision-Makers from around the World to Discuss Animal Health Issues

We regularly organize major events that bring together stakeholders in the animal health sector, including the General Session of the World Assembly of the 183 member countries of WOAH, held annually in Paris. This session brings together our delegates and political and professional decision-makers from around the world to discuss animal health and welfare issues. Furthermore, WOAH has been headquartered in Paris since its creation, and hosts numerous workshops throughout the year.

Setting International Standards for Better Risk Prevention

One of WOAH's key missions is to establish international, science-based standards, which are then adopted by our Members at our General Session. These standards form the basis for the actions of the Veterinary Services in the early detection and control of pathogens, including zoonotic agents, and in preventing their spread. This also involves our commitment to the rational use of veterinary medicines to combat antibiotic resistance.

Paris Region: an Environment Conducive to International Collaboration

Being located in Paris Region contributes to the success of WOAH's events and other initiatives by providing an environment conducive to international collaboration. In addition, Paris' proximity as a diplomatic center fosters discussions and partnerships with governments around the world, thus strengthening WOAH's influence and ability to promote global animal health.



© Unsplash

Creators of Ecosystems

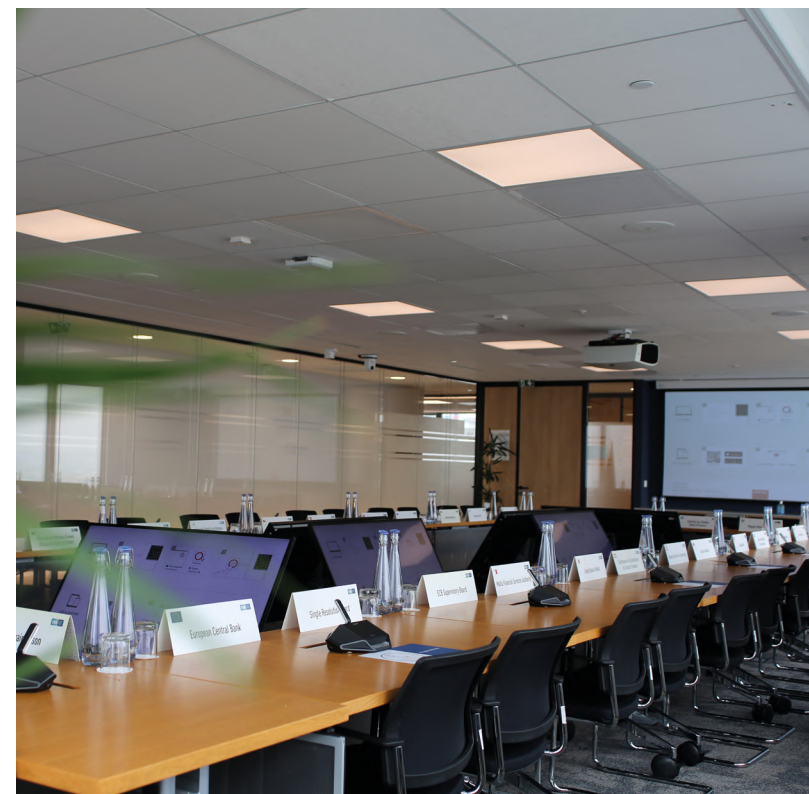
The synergies created by international organizations in Paris Region are the result of fruitful collaborations between these organizations, local businesses, academic institutions, and government stakeholders, therefore maximizing the economic and attractive benefits of their presence in the Region.

These collaborations can take different forms, such as research partnerships, knowledge exchanges, business opportunities, or joint initiatives to tackle global challenges.



According to the impact study, most international organizations surveyed have partnerships with various public and private stakeholders. These partners include the French Ministry of Culture, Engie, Agence Française de Développement, and academic institutions such as ESSEC. There are also partnerships between international organizations in Paris Region. For example, EUTELSAT IGO works with UNESCO at forums and summits on issues such as school connectivity and the fight against misinformation.

Similarly, Eurocontrol has played a leading role in creating an innovative ecosystem around drones, in collaboration with DSNA, ADP, Thales, and the Systematic Paris Region competitiveness cluster.





A Closer Look



Eurocontrol

eurocontrol.int

Serving the EU's Vision of a Single European Sky

EUROCONTROL is an intergovernmental, pan-European agency created in 1963. Its objective is to ensure the safety of air navigation for its 41 member states, in a common effort to make aviation in Europe safer, more efficient, more profitable and with minimal impact on the environment. "We exist to support European aviation, and we do this by offering high-level technical expertise in all aspects of air traffic management, including research and innovation, operations and performance monitoring. We are committed to the European Union's vision of a Single European Sky."



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EUROCONTROL Innovation Hub to Solve Aviation's Biggest Challenges

Based in Bretigny sur Orge since 1967, the EUROCONTROL Innovation Hub works closely with end-users to develop digital solutions and services tailored to their needs. We apply a unique blend of knowledge, experience, big data and artificial intelligence to solve aviation's biggest challenges. We are helping to speed up the modernization of the European air transport system and achieve the objectives of the Single European Sky (SES). We help our countries to introduce and validate various concepts such as U-space, for example by enabling industry to develop large-scale commercial drone operations. Our innovation hub is also a leading European simulation center, with unique and invaluable facilities and expertise for validating airspace restructuring.

Creation of a Network of Corridors Dedicated to Drone Flight Testing

One of the activities of our Innovation Hub focuses on Drones. The creation of a network of corridors dedicated to drone flight testing in the south of Paris Region is the fruit of close collaboration between our Innovation Hub, Systematic Paris-Région and the Thales Group, with substantial support from the French government and the Region. And we're working on a wide range of drone-related topics, such as aspects of Vertiport (EUREKA), or the interaction between drone traffic management and conventional air traffic management (ATM) systems, such as the tests carried out at the Pontoise aerodrome, flight tests to simulate avoidance maneuvers in real-life situations (CORUS-XUA).

What Impact for Paris Region?

We're proud of our drone/Urban Air Mobility activities, carried out with various stakeholders, including DSNA, ADP, Thales and Systematic Paris-Région. A real eco-system has been created in Paris Region, and the first tests, unique in Europe, have been carried out, enabling the region to remain at the cutting edge of innovation, while safely integrating new transport uses, which could have health and medical uses.

As an intergovernmental organization, with 41 member states, our role is to work with all the stakeholders in the aviation community for the benefit of all European air traffic, not just France or the Region.

Paris Region: A Favorable Ecosystem for EUROCONTROL

It is important for EUROCONTROL Innovation Hub to be in a dynamic environment, one that encourages research and innovation, and real synergy between the stakeholders in the air transport industry. Paris Region is well positioned in the aviation sector. It's home to the world's biggest air show, Le Bourget, the leading passenger transport company ADP, which manages 14 airports and civil airfields in Paris Region, and airlines such as Air France and Transavia. The Paris Region's ecosystem has enabled us to establish privileged contacts, for example by making our premises available to Thales for the drone control center, and our expertise in corridor design and flight data analysis. Thanks to this success, we are already talking to other Member States about extending/replicating this unique and innovative approach.



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Societal Impact

More generally, and outside the scope of this study, the societal impact of international organizations in Paris Region can be significant, covering aspects such as employment, governance, the environment, and innovation. Through their commitment to missions that are often in the public interest, international organizations have a positive impact on the host region.

These organizations can contribute to job creation in the region, both directly through their local workforce and indirectly through partnerships with local businesses. Their CSR initiatives often include community engagement programs such as volunteering, sponsoring local events, or supporting community development projects.

As global players, these organizations are often subject to high standards of responsible business practice, which positively influence the practices of the local companies with which they interact. By publishing sustainability reports and adopting transparent governance practices, they help to increase transparency and accountability in the Region.



Their actions to reduce carbon emissions, manage waste, and protect the environment can have a direct impact on the Region's ecological footprint. For example, the studies and scientific and technical notes produced by the International Institute of Refrigeration are encouraging major cities to rethink their cooling and heating networks with a view to achieving greater carbon neutrality.

International organizations are often at the forefront of innovation and technology and foster economic and social development in the Region through research and development partnerships. A notable example is the initiative with EUROCONTROL to create a network of corridors for UAV flight testing.



A Closer Look



IIR

International Institute of Refrigeration

iifiir.org

A Better Understanding of Refrigeration for a Better Quality of Life

The International Institute of Refrigeration is an intergovernmental organization founded in 1908 and governed by an international convention comprising 59 member states from all over the world. The IIR (International Institute of Refrigeration) is committed to promoting worldwide knowledge of refrigeration in all its applications and technologies, in order to improve the quality of life for all, while respecting the environment and taking into account economic imperatives. The IIR collects data, publishes documents for both decision-makers and scientists, and organizes conferences around the world to bring together public and private researchers, in order to disseminate scientific and technical information and assist in decision-making and the setting of standards.



© IIR

A Better Controlled Cold Chain to Benefit Health and the Environment Worldwide

Our mission in Paris Region is to organize conferences and congresses, as well as the statutory meetings that take place every year, usually in Paris, in order to promote knowledge of refrigeration and facilitate the dissemination of scientific and technical information on this subject to promote and serve health and the environment worldwide.

The fact that the IIR is headquartered in Paris greatly facilitates relations with stakeholders in the refrigeration industry and with various ministries, such as the Ministry of Industry and the Ministry of the Environment, and gives Paris Region a global reach through the Institute's 59 member states.

The last congress, held last August in Paris, brought together over 1,000 people, mainly from North America, Europe and East Asia.

The “ENOUGH” Project for Carbon Neutrality in 2050

In addition to the fact that refrigeration is absolutely essential to health, but is not sufficiently developed throughout the world - for example, to store vaccines in good conditions (as we saw during the COVID episode), or simply to ensure that every individual can eat their fill and enjoy quality food, thanks to a controlled cold chain - it's also an issue of the environment. Indeed, refrigeration uses a lot of energy, accounting for 20% of the world's electricity. It also often uses fluorinated gases, which have a strong greenhouse effect if leaked. One of the Institute's concerns is to develop new technologies for producing refrigeration without these gases and with greater energy efficiency. The IIR is currently conducting a study with the European Commission for a carbon-neutral food chain in 2050, known as the ENOUGH project. The idea is to study scenarios using technical, financial and political tools and solutions to reduce GHG emissions and achieve carbon neutrality.

Thus, the IIR is currently leading a study with the European Commission for a carbon-neutral food chain in 2050 “The ENOUGH project”. The idea is to study scenarios using technical, financial and political tools and solutions to reduce GHG emissions and achieve carbon neutrality.

Reinventing Refrigeration for a Positive Impact in Paris Region and around the World

The study that the Institute is currently carrying out with the ENOUGH project, for instance, will have an impact on the way we think about urban logistics, since the production of greenhouse gases can be found at every level of the food chain, from agricultural production to the consumer's pantry, including wastage, warehouses, refrigerated transport and the various forms of distribution.

In general, the Institute's Parisian location favors collaboration with the Paris Region ecosystem, both with public and private laboratories, and with other stakeholders in the refrigeration sector, such as companies. By promoting their technologies and expertise around the world, they boost their export capacity.


In addition, the scientific and technical studies and notes produced by the institute are encouraging major cities to rethink their refrigeration and heating networks with a view to achieving greater carbon neutrality.

The IIR, a Strategic Position in Europe

Being part of the European Union enables the International Institute of Refrigeration to carry out its work and studies on cleaner, more controlled refrigeration. Indeed, it's clear that the European Union is ahead of the rest of the world on all these climate change issues. Most of the countries in the European Union are also members of the Institute, which makes its work all the easier.

The fact that an international organization is headquartered in a particular country means that, in one way or another, the host country's policies are taken into greater consideration in the organization's actions.

In conclusion, France, and Paris Region in particular, are perfectly suited to hosting intergovernmental organizations, according to the Institute. The infrastructure is excellent. Paris is a highly attractive city at the heart of Europe in terms of transport infrastructure, facilities, culture and reputation.



Confirmed by the study on the economic impact and influence of international organizations in Paris Region, the presence of international organizations is a strategic factor for the host region. Their presence boosts the local economy, makes the Region more attractive to investors, and fosters international cooperation. The high concentration of international organizations makes Paris Region a major player on the international scene.

Practical Tips for International Organizations

The variety of situations encountered in the day-to-day operations of international organizations—from the arrival of foreign employees in France to employment access for employees' spouses—is closely tied to the diversity of their statutes and the presence or absence of a single headquarters agreement governing their activities in the host country.

Certain staff members of international organizations may be granted exemptions from ordinary law, but these exemptions are not uniform. To fully understand the specific nature and conditions of these exemptions and the personnel categories concerned, it is necessary to refer to each organization's headquarters agreement.



Facilitating the Arrival of Foreign Employees in France

This chapter aims to briefly present the terms and procedures for welcoming foreign employees, according to the international organization's status.

Foreign Agents of Intergovernmental Organizations

The Protocol serves as the primary contact point within the French administration for these entities and holds the authority to issue special residence permits and employment certificates.

Except for French nationals and residents or nationals of specific member states of the European Union or the European Economic Area, all foreign employees of these organizations are required to undergo the compulsory procedure of obtaining a long-stay visa "D carte PROMAE" before they arrive in France. This visa is valid for 3 months and allows them, upon arrival in France, to receive a special residence permit from the Protocol.

The same procedure applies to family members (spouses, children under the age of 21, dependent ascendants), unless they are French nationals or already reside in France. For nationals of the European Union and the European Economic Area, the entities to which they are accredited will apply to the Protocol for a special residence permit upon their arrival in France. If the employee is of French nationality or a resident of France, an employment certificate will be issued.

The special residence permit serves a dual purpose: it serves as proof of legal residence in France and attests to the beneficiary's status and the extent of the privileges and immunities granted to them under that status, as recognized by the French authorities.

Generally, the special residence permit is issued for 3 years (5 years for certain categories of officials in international organizations) and can be renewed for an additional two years.

Diplomatic and Consular Privileges and Immunities

Customary international law provides for privileges and immunities for diplomatic and consular agents. The aim is to enable them to carry out their mission in the host country free from any constraints (of a judicial, police, or fiscal nature), in their capacity as official envoys of a Sovereign State.

The two Vienna Conventions on Diplomatic Relations (1961) and Consular Relations (1963) emphasize in their preamble that "the purpose of privileges and immunities is not to benefit individuals, but to ensure the efficient performance of the functions of diplomatic missions as representatives of States". All persons who benefit from these privileges and immunities also must respect the laws and regulations of the host state.

In the case of international and European organizations, privileges are governed by headquarters agreements concluded between France and the international organization with headquarters in France, or by international conventions (notably those of the United Nations and the European Union). As a result, tax and customs privileges vary from one organization to another.

In France, the Protocol is responsible for ensuring that international conventions and headquarters agreements are applied to diplomatic and consular missions accredited in France and to international organizations with headquarters or offices in France.

Foreign Employees of International Associations and Federations

Within these organizations, where activities are not governed by a headquarters agreement, the employment of a foreign employee is subject to compliance with specific formalities that vary based on the nationality and residence of the foreign national.

If the foreign employee is a **national of the European Union, the European Economic Area, or Switzerland**, they are free to travel, reside, and work in France without needing a visa or residence permit.

Third-country nationals must hold a residence document that corresponds to the reason for their stay. Special rules apply to Algerian and British nationals, as well as nationals of countries that have signed bilateral agreements with France.

An organization can hire **non-European foreign employees** if they hold a residence permit and work permit that allow them to occupy the job they have been hired for.

Some residence permits already constitute a work permit, allowing the holder to work in France, such as:

- The EU long-term resident card,
- The multi-annual “talent passport” and “talent passport (family)” residence permits,
- The temporary or multi-annual “private and family life” residence permit,
- The “job search or business creation” residence permit

Employees on secondment in France as part of an intra-group mobility program (for a maximum of 3 years) are also exempt from the work permit requirement and hold an “ICT seconded employee” residence permit. Nevertheless, for each of these residence permits, it will be necessary to check if it allows the holder to work in the organization as it depends on the reason of stay of the residence permit.



Work Permit Application Procedure

If the foreign employee does not have a visa or residence permit that authorizes him or her to work in France, the employer must apply for a work permit from the French Ministry of the Interior, via an online platform: **Foreign nationals in France**.

It is necessary to plan for at least 1.5 months for the processing of the work permit application. The job must be on the list of jobs in short supply or have been advertised for at least 3 weeks by a public employment agency.

Once work authorization has been granted, the employer must pay a tax to the Direction Générale des Finances Publiques (DGFiP), the amount of which depends on the foreign worker's level of pay. Note that there are cases of exemption.

Note that obtaining a work permit does not exempt foreign nationals from taking the necessary steps to obtain a visa that authorizes their entry into France, and a residence permit that grants them the right of residence (for stays of more than 3 months).

Employment and Career Opportunities for Spouses of International Employees

Paris Region is a global hub of professional opportunities that attracts talent from all over the world. With its dynamic job market, diverse industries, and thriving business ecosystem, the Region offers international professionals a wealth of career prospects. Paris Region not only welcomes expatriates but also provides pathways for accompanying spouses to engage with its vibrant employment landscape.

Working in France as Spouses of International Organization Employees

Regardless of the nationality of the international organization's staff member (EU or non-EU), their non-EU national spouse can apply for a work permit through the Protocol. The procedure may vary depending on the spouse's status within the organization, such as being an international civil servant or a seconded national expert.

Non-EU Family Members of International Civil Servants

Staff members of intergovernmental international organizations are granted a **special residence permit** issued by the Protocol of the Ministry of Europe and Foreign Affairs, confirming their status as international civil servants in France.

Non-EU family members of staff members are also issued a special residence permit upon their arrival in France, entitling them to unrestricted access to the French labor market.

- **Non-EU family members of staff members** must initially apply for a long-stay visa (visa D carte PROMAE) to enter France. Subsequently, they can apply for a special residence permit through the Protocol, in coordination with the organization's HR team. With the special residence permit, non-EU spouses can request a work permit from the Protocol if they have a job offer from a French employer. The same procedure applies if the spouse intends to work as a self-employed professional. Commercial activities are not permitted under the special residence permit. However, the applicant may invest in a company without establishing it and without becoming its legal representative.

- **Non-EU spouses married to a French citizen** are granted a long-stay visa and a residence permit labeled as 'Private life - Family life' (*vie privée – vie familiale*), allowing them to enter, reside, and engage in any professional activity in France.

Family Members of Seconded National Experts (SNEs)

Visa Application

Third-country national family members of EU/EEA/Swiss nationals must submit a visa application to consular authorities in their residence country, unless exempt. Visa applications can be submitted online at france-visas.gouv.fr.

Residence Permit and Employment in France

Once in France, it is mandatory to apply for a residence permit known as 'Family Member of a Citizen of the EU/EEA/Switzerland'. This residence permit grants the right to work in any salaried position or engage in self-employed professional activities without the need for additional procedures. This residence permit is issued free of charge, is valid for up to 5 years, and is renewable.



Residence Permits Allowing Non-EU Spouses to Work in France

The European Union is an area where people can move freely within the Schengen area. Citizens of the European Union or the European Economic Area (EEA) have the right to work in another member country without any additional formality, apart from entering the territory with a valid identity document (passport, identity card).

To be able to work in France, non-EU partners must possess a visa or a residence permit.

Several residence permits are available for non-EU nationals and enable them to engage in professional activities or provide commercial or liberal services. These permits include:

- The 'Talent' residence permit: This streamlined procedure is designed for accompanying minor children and spouses and allows expat spouses to undertake any paid employment in France
- Long-stay visas equivalent to a residence permit (VLS/TS) with mentions such as 'entrepreneur/self-employed,' 'private and family life,' 'employee,' or 'temporary worker'
- Temporary or multi-annual residence permits with mentions like 'private and family life,' 'entrepreneur/self-employed,' 'employee,' or 'temporary worker.'

The interested person must initiate the process on the [official website for visas in France](#), which specifies the required documents depending on the desired visa and provides instructions on how to schedule an appointment with the French consular authorities at the usual place of residence.



Job Opportunities in Paris Region

Paris Region, with its vibrant international communities, thriving startup ecosystem, and cosmopolitan ambiance, stands as the ideal destination for advancing one's career, launching a business, or securing employment in a multicultural environment. It's a Region where both partners can simultaneously pursue their professional aspirations.

With a multitude of Fortune 500 companies, numerous international corporate headquarters, and over 8,000 startups, Paris Region offers an abundance of job prospects. Expatriate profiles are highly sought after by these companies, given their need for multilingual professionals with expertise in areas such as Tech, Sales, Engineering, and more.

Spouses searching for employment can access various public and private services designed to assist them. Furthermore, international organizations in Paris Region can readily access support from specialized service providers focused on assisting spouses with integration. These services encompass French language courses, intercultural coaching, and job search assistance that contribute to the retention of foreign employees within their teams.

Regulated Activities

To engage in a regulated activity (such as a doctor, nurse, architect, legal counsel, etc.), interested individuals must ensure that they meet the conditions for practicing that profession in France and must be registered with the relevant professional order.

An International Schooling Offering

Paris Region provides an extensive array of educational choices, catering to the requirements of expatriate families and staff members of International Organizations. Whether they choose the French educational system or an international school, this culturally vibrant and dynamic region ensures robust support for their children's educational endeavors.

The Values of French Schools

In France, public schools are free, and education is compulsory from ages 3 to 16. All French and foreign children living in France have the right to an education. Public schools uphold and impart the values of the French Republic: all children are welcomed and respected, regardless of their origin, nationality, religion, gender, family status, or disability. Public schools are secular and respect each individual's culture, language, and religion. Additionally, public schools provide tailored education for students whose native language is not French. Special teaching units may be available to help these students progress from primary to middle school.

The Options for Bilingual or International Education

Whether taught in French or through international programs, the French school system accommodates bilingual or non-French speaking children, which makes it suitable for families planning a long stay in France. Additionally, international private schools cater to expatriates on shorter assignments, as they can allow their children to seamlessly **reintegrate into schools in their home countries** upon return.

Depending on the family and their educational plans for their children, parents arriving in the Paris Region can consider different options:

1

French Schools with International Sections (17 different languages)

- From elementary school (6 years old) to high school (ages 15-18).
- Bilingual and bicultural programs are offered in 17 different languages and follow the national French curriculum, where courses such as History, Geography, and Literature are taught in the language of the section.
- Diplomas: Pupils take specific exams leading to the International Option of the *Diplôme National du Brevet* and the International French Baccalaureate (BFI).
- Fees: These schools are subsidized, with some being free of charge, and others offering modest annual fees ranging from €1,000 to €6,000.

2

French Schools with Binational Sections (German, Italian, Spanish)

- Public high schools (ages 15-18).
- Bicultural training and curricula agreed jointly by the countries concerned (Italy, Spain, Germany). Intensive weekly instruction of 6 to 10 hours is provided in the language of the section.
- Diplomas: Upon completion, students receive dual national high school diplomas: ABIBAC (German Abitur + French Baccalaureate), BACHIBAC (Spanish Bachillerato + French Baccalaureate), ESABAC (Italian Esame di Stato + French Baccalaureate).
- Tuition is free.

3

International Private Schools

- Independently funded schools that permit students to undertake various international exams such as IGCSE, IB, A-Levels, High School Diploma.
- There are up to 40 international private schools in Paris Region, including renowned institutions like the British School of Paris, the American School of Paris, the International School of Paris, Jeannine Manuel, ICS Paris, Marymount, Deutsche Schule Paris, Liceo Italiano Leonardo da Vinci, Liceo Español Luis Buñuel, and more.
- Fees: These private institutions are not subsidized by the French government. Annual tuition and fees range from €6,000 and €35,000 per year, depending on the schools and grade levels.

4

The European School - Multilingual & Multicultural European Education

The European School Paris-La Défense, located in Courbevoie, is a public school that provides a multilingual and multicultural education from preschool (starting at the age of 4) to the baccalaureate within two language sections: an English-speaking section and a French-speaking section. Education is free of charge for students.

It prepares students for the European Baccalaureate diploma, which is officially recognized for admission to higher education in all EU countries and several other countries.

The school currently enrolls 302 students in temporary premises. Starting from the 2028 school year, it will move to new facilities with larger capacities, allowing it to accommodate up to 1,000 students.



The school is open to all students, but priority access is guaranteed for the children of staff from the European Union institutions and international organizations. Families not affiliated with European institutions can submit an enrollment application, which will be considered based on the category and the number of available places.

Thus, depending on their situation, students may be admitted, and in order of priority, in the categories A1, A2, B1, B2, C1, C2, or C3 (admission rules vary by category):

Category A1	Children of staff of the European Communities under agreement with the school: EBA, ESMA, GSA and European Commission
Category A2	Children of staff of European institutions and European communities who do not have an agreement with the school Children of staff of international institutions and organizations Children of the staff of the European School of Paris-La Défense
Category B1	Children of staff of diplomatic and consular representations
Category B2	Children with one sibling currently enrolled in the school
Category C1	Children of families residing in Courbevoie or in the immediate vicinity on a non-permanent basis, for whom the continuation of their education in a system other than the French system is considered
Category C2	Children whose native language is a European language other than French, or whose common language is a European language other than French
Category C3	Children for whom the family desires an education in line with the principles of the European Schools

Admission Procedures

- For public/government-run French schools, parents typically must enroll their child in the school closest to their place of residence. In some cases, there is a possibility to seek admission to a public school outside the designated residential area, but this requires authorization from the town hall.
- For private schools, deadlines and application procedures vary based on school levels and available spaces. Earlier enrollment applications are generally preferred (some schools start as early as October, others in January), but international schools often accept enrollment year-round to accommodate expatriate families, with most operating waiting lists; hence, adding a child early improves their chances of enrollment.

To find the most appropriate language education offer, visit our [International Education Guide in Paris Region](#)

Diverse Childcare Options

Parents will find a variety of childcare options for children aged 3 months to 3 years in the Paris Region, which makes it an ideal place to balance family life and a career. Furthermore, the French social benefit system supports childcare and offers allowances and benefits designed to help parents who are eligible to benefit from them.

Collective Childcare Facilities or Nannies

In France, parents typically choose between placing their child in a daycare center (Crèche) - either public or private - or hiring a childcare assistant, commonly known as an "Assistante Maternelle", who cares for children in their own home or yours:

Public Daycare Centers:

- Managed by local city councils, these centers welcome children aged 2.5 months to 3 years during working hours.
- Applications, often for limited spots, should be submitted through the local town hall.

Company Daycare (Crèches Inter-entreprises):

- Private daycare centers booked directly by companies for their employees.
- Co-financed by parents, the French family benefit fund, and companies.
- Companies can benefit from tax reductions under conditions.
- Examples include Maison Bleue, Babilou, Les Petits Chaperons Rouges, some of which are bilingual (People&Baby, Les Petites Canailles...).

Micro-nurseries:

- Smaller, private daycare centers that accommodate up to 10 children.
- Some micro-nurseries are company crèches.
- Offers a mixed-age environment, thereby fostering community life among babies and toddlers.

Drop-in daycare (Haltes-garderies):

- A flexible "drop-in daycare service" for children aged 2.5 months to 6 years old.
- A complement to the child's usual care routine, providing interaction with a group of children.

Parental Nurseries (Crèches Parentales):

- Managed by parent associations that hire childcare assistants.
- Offer more flexibility than a collective daycare center.

Certified Childcare Assistants:

- Supervise 1 to 4 children in their homes or at daycare centers.

Employing a Childcare Assistant at Home:

- It's possible to hire a childcare assistant to care for children in the parents' home (Garde à domicile) or opt for shared childcare with another family (Garde partagée).
- Families act as the employers or co-employers of the home-based childcare assistants.

Multilingual Childcare Assistants:

- Dedicated websites or agencies can help families find multilingual childcare assistants.

Hosting an Au Pair:

- Cultural exchange for childcare, providing room and board, and support for language learning, facilitated by specialized agencies.

Childcare Allowances and Tax Credit Under Conditions

Provided they pay their taxes in France, parents of one or more children under the age of 6 can benefit from a childcare allowance called "*Complément de libre choix de Mode de Garde*" (CMG) to help them meet their childcare costs. Children must be looked after by a childcare assistant, a home childcare assistant, or a daycare center. The amount of this aid depends on the number of dependent children, household resources, and the cost of childcare. Families can also benefit from a tax credit, depending on whether the child is looked after at home by an employee, or by a childcare assistant or daycare center. All childcare subsidies are covered and granted by the CAF - the French Family Support Fund.

Thus, **personnel from international organizations subject to social security exemption agreements are not eligible for social and family benefits or tax credits**. However, they still retain the possibility of accessing various childcare options for their children. The cost of these services will be determined accordingly based on the income of the family residing in France.

Affiliation Rules and Social Security Exemption Agreements

International organizations with operations in France are subject to rules regarding affiliation to French social security schemes. These rules include a general obligation of affiliation for any person who works in France. However, exemption arrangements can be put in place, subject to specific agreements between the international organizations and the French Social Security Department (Direction de la Sécurité Sociale), the administration in charge of drawing up public social security policies.

Regime applicable to international organizations

The rules that govern the affiliation of international organizations to French social security schemes are as follows:

Obligation of affiliation :

Any person who carries out a steady and regular activity in France on behalf of an employer, including an international organization, which may or may not have an establishment in France, is obliged to be affiliated to a French social security scheme. This rule will apply in particular to employees of organizations that have an Articles of Incorporation or a federation status.

Exemption subject to conditions :

Staff of international organizations may be exempted from affiliation to the French social security scheme, provided this is formalized in a social security agreement signed between the international organization and the Social Security Department. In these cases, the persons concerned must be covered either by the scheme set up by the international organization, or by that of their dispatching Country (if the international organization's Articles of Incorporation so provide), for the entire period of their activity in France within this organization.

Specific international organization coverage :

Coverage of a risk by the special international organization scheme does not automatically exempt you from compulsory affiliation to a French social security scheme, unless a specific exemption has been established under a ratified international agreement. This exemption must cover both the nature of the risk and the categories of people concerned. In the absence of such an exemption, affiliation to the French social security scheme and payment of the corresponding contributions remain compulsory for the international organizations and the staff concerned.

Content of exemption agreements

These can be either specific agreements relating to the social security scheme, or provisions incorporated into the headquarters agreement, in both cases subject to parliamentary approval.

Scope of the exemption :

These are only exemption agreements for affiliation to the French social security scheme, not agreements on the coordination of social security legislation. International organizations are exempted from their obligation to affiliate for the risks and persons referred to in the agreement, provided that they cover these risks with a sufficient level of coverage. In return, they are exempt from the corresponding social security contributions.

The agreement may cover one or more social security risks: sickness, maternity, paternity, disability, industrial accidents and occupational diseases, old age and survivors' benefits, death and family benefits. Exempted persons are not entitled to the benefits provided by French legislation for the risks covered by the special scheme of the international organization.

Additional mechanisms :

Mechanisms to guarantee rights include the right of option and the possibility of covering certain risks with private insurance.

- Private insurance is accepted when it offers a level of protection that is at least equal to that of the French social security scheme.
- With regard to the right of option, people hired by the international organization in France can choose, when they sign their contract, between the French scheme and the organization's own scheme. This option is irrevocable.

The agreement may also allow for access by the organization's staff, under certain conditions, to voluntary old-age insurance in France or to the purchase of insurance periods under the conditions defined by French legislation.

Family members of international organization staff :

The agreements may detail the terms of exemption for family members. However, family members who are either employed in France or self-employed are not included in this exemption. As such, they are affiliated to the French social security scheme.

Retired international organization staff :

The exemption agreements do not cover retirees from international organizations, who must be affiliated to the French social security scheme.

However, retired staff members of an international organization are not entitled to health insurance in France if they do not have a French pension (international organization mono-pensioners), nor are members of their families, if they are covered under conditions similar to those of the general French health and maternity insurance scheme by the specific scheme of the organization to which they belonged when they were active. they are affiliated to the French social security scheme.

French social security affiliation for spouses of employees of international organizations holding a special residence permit

As a matter of principle, staff who hold a special residence permit do not have to be affiliated to the French social security scheme. These people are generally covered by their sending country, by their organization's scheme or by private insurance.

Two scenarios are possible:

For international organization staff covered by a social security exemption agreement:

These social security agreements grant them exemption from French social security contributions, and allow them to be fully covered by their organization's scheme, without having to pay double contributions (to the international organization and to the French schemes).

Their spouses and adult children are generally covered by the international organization scheme as family members. If the social security agreement signed with France expressly so provides, they benefit from the same exemption from the obligation to affiliate in France.

However, there are cases where these people must be affiliated to the French health insurance scheme, in particular when they meet two conditions:

They are not covered elsewhere (international organization scheme or another country's scheme, as in the case of a secondment);

They carry out a professional activity in France that is authorized by the Ministry of the Interior in the case of family members of the staff of international organizations.

For international organization staff for whom the international organization has opted for affiliation in France, or in the absence of a social security exemption agreement signed between France and the international organization:

These staff are affiliated to the French schemes by their organization, which is also responsible for paying the contributions due in respect of this affiliation.

Their family members must also be affiliated to the French health insurance scheme. To do so, they must present the CPAM with their special residence permit, an employment contract compliant with French labor law, a work permit and a payslip showing the contributions paid to the French social security scheme.



Key Players to Make International Organizations Daily Life Easier



Privileged Contacts

The Ministry of Europe and Foreign Affairs



The Ministry of Europe and Foreign Affairs (MEAE) is stepping up its policy of attracting international organizations by making it easier for them to stay and work in France. Indeed, the presence of these organizations - international organizations, development stakeholders, associations and foundations, research centers, NGOs - embodies France's vision of effective multilateralism in order to achieve the sustainable development goals and the Paris Climate Agreement.

Among the departments that deal directly with international organizations:

The Department of the United Nations, International Organizations, Human Rights and the French-Speaking World:

The "Global Issues and Governance of International Organizations" sub-department oversees and coordinates France's positions in forums that address global issues within the United Nations system, and steers the work of the Ministry of Europe and Foreign Affairs in strengthening France's attractiveness strategy with regard to international organizations. In conjunction with the departments concerned, its role is to oversee the inter-ministerial coordination of France's relations as host state with the international organizations that are present in France.

The Economic Diplomacy Directorate:

Within this directorate, the "Economic Attractiveness and Outreach Department" analyzes, monitors and contributes to measures that aim to increase France's attractiveness for foreign investors and international talents. It co-organizes events to promote France's economic assets, in particular the annual Choose France Summit, and participates in the attractiveness initiatives regarding international economic organizations. It strives to enhance France's attractiveness from a legal standpoint.

The Protocol:

Within the Protocol Department, the "Diplomatic and Consular Privileges and Immunities" sub-department is responsible for examining all questions relating to the privileges and immunities of accredited diplomatic missions in France and their staff, international organizations with headquarters or offices in France and their staff, delegations and permanent representations to these organizations and their staff, and persons or property likely to be covered by a derogatory status.



Choose Paris Region: Welcoming You and Supporting Your Growth



As a non-profit regional agency, Choose Paris Region promotes the appeal of Paris Region both nationally and internationally to attract international companies and talents.

The agency assists international organizations, regardless of their legal status, at every stage of their establishment and development, offering seamless support by working closely with competent authorities and local territorial actors.

It also maintains daily contact with teams to facilitate the arrival, setup, and integration of foreign employees and their families, ensuring that they can fully embrace their experience in Paris Region.

Business France and Its Welcome Office



Business France is the agency responsible for the international development of French companies and international investments in France. Their Welcome Office team, experts in international mobility, is tasked with informing, guiding, and supporting international talents and their employers, except for intergovernmental agencies.

The International Organizations Club

This club was established by Choose Paris Region and Paris-Île de France Capitale Économique to nurture the dynamic ecosystem of international organizations located in Paris Region and provide a friendly platform for those interested in establishing a presence here.

This club offers international organizations the opportunity to:

- Showcase their organizations to government authorities by gaining a better understanding of the challenges related to their presence in the region.
- Facilitate exchanges among international organizations, and share best practices and experiences, thereby contributing to improving their conditions and development in Paris Region.
- Unite a community of leaders from international organizations.
- Meet on a regular basis with key contacts in charge of hosting international organizations, such as the Ministry of Europe and Foreign Affairs, (MEAE) and Business France, in order to respond to the needs of international organisations and clarify the role of the French government in supporting and enhancing the attractiveness of its territory to them

Key Highlights of the Club:

1

A Leaders' Club

A platform for leaders of international organizations to meet in unique settings, once or twice a year, fostering and enhancing interactions among stakeholders contributing to the excellence of our Region.

2

A Technical Club

Targeted at the operational teams of international organizations, providing them with a space for sharing and discussing the daily topics and challenges that concern them.

To join the club or learn more, contact us: team@club-oi.org



The International Organizations Club workshop on October 17, 2023 at the Hôtel du Ministre of Europe and Foreign Affairs, attended by the Cabinet of the Minister of Europe and Foreign Affairs and the Agence Française de Développement.

Useful Links

The following links will provide you with additional information on administrative services in France and daily life in the Paris Region.

Administrative Procedures

[CLEISS](#) - Liaison body between the French social security institutions and their foreign counterparts

[Diplomatie.gouv](#) - The Ministry for Europe and Foreign Affairs

[France Visas](#) - Official website for visa applications to France

[Health insurance Ameli](#) - The French social security portal

[Impots.gouv](#) - Tax authorities' website

[OFII](#) - The French Office for Immigration and Integration

[Public Service](#) - Official website of the French Government's Portal

[Welcome to France](#) - Information portal for foreign talents

Daily Life in Paris Region

[Settle in](#) - A practical guide to living in Paris Region

[A Cosmopolitan Region | Choose Paris Region](#) - Recommendations for expats living and working in Paris region

[International Education in Paris Region](#) - Information portal and point of contact

[Visit Paris Region](#) - To discover all the faces of the region

[Connect with Our Selected Partners](#) - For services related to relocating to Paris Region

[Bienvenue dans la Grand'Place ! \(visitparisregion.com\)](#) - The marketplace for business events in Paris Region

[Paris Region Facts and Figures 2024](#)

With the support of Paris-Île de France Capitale Économique and the French Ministry of Europe and Foreign Affairs

Most of the economic facts and figures regarding Paris Region in this publication are taken from the "Paris Region Facts and Figures 2024" publication, which is co-produced by Choose Paris Region, the Paris Île-de-France Regional Chamber of Commerce and Industry and l'Institut Paris Region.

Disclaimer

The information provided in this handbook can not replace the official information available through official and updated channels. The author can not be responsible for any mistake, omission or non up-to-date information present in the current document.



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